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SOVIET HINTS A-ARMS FOR RED BLOC

By Walter Lister Jr.
Herald Tribune News Service

MOSCOW, April 29 -- If NATO "paves the way" for arming West Europe with nuclear weapons, the Warsaw pact nations of East Europe may also get nuclear armaments, Pravda warned Sunday.

The Communist Party paper noted that a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council next month in Athens is expected to discuss a modified approach to putting American nuclear weapons at the disposal of NATO.

The essential point of the article was that the proposed "fellowship" approach is only "camouflage."

"What difference does it make if the bundeswehr does not at first formally possess such weapons?" Pravda said. "Suffice it to place the finger of German militarism to the trigger for the danger of a fatal explosion to be increased a thousand times."

The article said the threat of nuclear arms for NATO hangs over Europe "like a sword of Damocles" -- a comparison formerly used by Soviet Premier Khrushchev in referring to Soviet missile strength.

In this case the "sword" is a "crude stratagem" to wrest concessions from the Soviet Union in negotiations over Berlin, the paper explained.

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Pravda concluded that if West Germany, a NATO member, is allowed to get into the nuclear club "through the window" then the Soviet Union will "draw the proper conclusion."